

CAREERS

Briefly

Chefs lending a hand

On Friday, Nov. 15, at Embassy Suites, top chefs will offer local diners an opportunity to enjoy a great night out while raising funds, making friends and increasing awareness of the March of Dimes mission to improve the health of babies.

In addition to sampling signature dishes, guests will be able to bid on many unique auction items graciously donated by various community businesses. All funds raised by Signature Chefs Auction support lifesaving research and educational programs across the state.

"By becoming involved with the March of Dimes, we have learned more about the tremendous, life changing accomplishments of the organization and want to share with others what we have learned," said Jimmy and Julianna Strickland, honorary event chairs. "Four million babies are born each year in the United States and each and every one of them is helped by the March of Dimes through research, education, vaccines and breakthroughs. Let us all continue to work together for stronger, healthier babies."

This year, the March of Dimes is celebrating its 75th anniversary and its ongoing work to help babies get a healthy start in life.

For more information, contact Jamie Southern at JSouthern@marchofdimes.com or directly at 336-231-3765.

New MLK commissioners

The Human Relations Commission (HRC), a division of the N.C. Department of Administration, has welcomed seven new commissioners to the 16 member Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Commission.

The new members are Clarence Henderson (the chairman) of High Point, Anitra Bailey of Durham, Dr. Troy Kickler of Cary, Shakeal Moore of Rocky Mount, Vancine Sturdivant of Lilesville, Warren Turner of Charlotte and Douglas Williams of Greensboro.

The new commissioners will join the nine existing commissioners: Dr. Dumas Harshaw of Raleigh, Kenneth Freeman of Pembroke, Donnie Garris of Charlotte, Jacque Jeffers of Wilson, Larry Jones of Warrenton, Melissa Martin of Raleigh, Dr. Tony Mitchell of Cary, David Prince of Garner and Bennett Taylor of Seaboard.

Appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the MLK Commission is charged with promoting an awareness and appreciation of the life and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Commission's signature events are participating in the 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Grant Program, and conducting the Let Freedom Ring bell ringing ceremony at the Bicentennial Mall in January 2014.

LWS Board changes

Leadership Winston-Salem has five new board members and new officers. The new chair of the Board of Directors is Peter J. Juran of Blanco Tackabery. The other officers are: Vice Chair Dr. D. Kathy Stitts of Winston-Salem State University, Secretary Alison Y. Ashe-Card of Wake Forest University, Treasurer Benjamin Rowe of the City of Winston-Salem and immediate past chair, and Cheryl D. Joyner of BB&T.



New members (from left) New York City's Kathy Goliszek, Andy Brown, Lisa Venable and Tyke Arbaugh. Tyke Arbaugh of BB&T, Andrew "Andy" Brown of COR365, Carrie Collins of the YMCA, Kathy Goliszek of Carolina Urological Associates and Lisa Venable of DataMax Corporation.

The Board of Directors acknowledged the contributions of outgoing board members B. Jane Doub of Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc., who gave six years of service, and Lawrence "Rence" Callahan of Walter, Robbs, Callahan & Pierce, a member for three years.

With a mission of educating, connecting and energizing leaders to serve and improve the community, Leadership Winston-Salem is a nonprofit organization founded in 1984 that offers a nine-month Flagship Program that challenges participants to increase their personal and collective capacity to transform the community through civic engagement, servant leadership and building social capital.

LUCAS AMONG N.C. AWARD HONOREES

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

John Harding Lucas will receive the North Carolina Award for Public Service later this month.

Lucas, 93, has earned the respect of many by embracing and overcoming challenges. For more than 60 years, he was an education administrator and leader. He fought for the integration of the the whites-only North Carolina Education Association and the black North Carolina Teachers Association, proposing what came to be known as the "Lucas concept."

He proposed that a completely new organization be formed rather than forcing either group into an existing structure and in 1970 the North Carolina Association of Educators was created. He was elected to the first school board of the newly merged school system in Durham County and served as president of Shaw University.

He is an advocate for youth, school funding and social justice. Lucas Middle School in Durham and other community institutions bear his name. He remains active in his church and serves lifelong appointments on several boards.

The state's highest civilian honor, the North Carolina Awards will be presented by Gov. Pat McCrory to six distinguished North Carolinians at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham.

"It is an honor to pay tribute to these remarkable individuals who have made North Carolina better by their extraordinary involvement in this state," says Susan Kluttz, Secretary of the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources. "Each has enriched the lives of our citizens and propelled North Carolina onto the national and world stages."

The following are the honorees: Myron S. Cohen (science), a trailblazing UNC-Chapel Hill HIV/AIDS researcher; John E. Cram (fine arts), an Asheville art gallery owner; John M. H. Hart Jr. (literature), a former attorney whose bestsellers include "The King of Lies," "Down River" and "The Last Child;" Phillip J. Kirk Jr. (public service), a lifelong advocate of education and economic development; and Walt Wolfram (public service), an internationally-acclaimed linguist who has spotlighted the state's rich language and dialect heritage.



Lucas

Ready to Run



Press Photo

Judge Ola Lewis has announced her intentions to run for the N.C. Supreme Court next year. A resident of Boiling Springs Lake, Lewis has been a District Court judge in Brunswick County since 1993. Last week, Lewis delivered the keynote address at the fall meeting of the N.C. Federation of Republican Women at the Raleigh Crabtree Marriott.

Honor for local free tax prep program

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The past tax season's collaborative effort to provide low income county residents with free tax preparation has garnered a national award.

Partners the United Way of Forsyth County, the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board), the Forsyth County Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and sponsor Wells Fargo have received the Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations, a group that pushes federal officials to continue and expand economic development programs across the nation.

This past season, the returns of 2,708 residents were prepared through the partnership. That number is up from the previous season, largely because the Piedmont Triad Regional Council's mobile unit was employed. Equipped with 10 computers, the mobile unit was able to traverse the county, helping residents in their own backyards with tax prep. The taxes mobile unit volunteers prepared amounted to \$200,000 in refunds.

Overall, the program prepared tax returns worth nearly \$3.3 million for county residents, much of that, \$1,626,000, is from the Earned Income Tax Credit, which has been credited with lifting nine million Americans out of poverty. According to the partner agencies, on average, a qualified Forsyth County taxpayer receives \$1,700 in EITC credit. In addition to benefiting working families, the credit brings money directly into the community.

Again this tax season, community sites are available throughout Forsyth County to provide free tax preparation, as well as asset-building counseling and referrals to asset-building programs such as Experiment in Self-Reliance's Individual Development Account program, NC Saves and Financial Literacy Counseling.

The locations and operating hours for the sites have not yet been confirmed. For more information, go to www.myfreetaxes.com/forsyth or call the Experiment in Self-Reliance at 336-722-9400.



State's female leaders getting noticed

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Three Council of State leaders have earned recognition.

State Treasurer Janet Cowell received international attention by ranking 21st (second highest rank among U.S. women) on the Sovereign Wealth Fund's Public Investor 100 list for 2013. The Institute highlighted Cowell's successful stewardship of the state's public pension funds, which have "outperformed the national average for public pension funds by 22 percent."

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall is slated to receive The Elected Women of Excellence Award from the National Foundation of Women Legislators (NFWL) later this month in Washington, D.C. at the organization's Capital Forum and 75th Anniversary Celebration. The award was "created to identify women who have worked tirelessly, often breaking down barriers and overcoming obstacles that once seemed insurmountable, to serve their communities." In 1996, Marshall made history as the first woman elected to a statewide executive office in North Carolina.

State Auditor Beth Wood has been named by CPA Practice Advisor magazine as one the "Most Powerful Women in Accounting" in 2013. The magazine credits Wood for "bringing the state's compliance supplements up to federal standards, ensuring that federal grants are being used as intended" and for



Cowell



Marshall



Wood



Truliant Chairman and CEO Marc Schaefer presents the award to Tar Heel Basement Systems' Pete Burgess with the help of Chamber President and CEO Gayle Anderson.

Chamber awards business leaders

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce held its 128th Annual Meeting on Nov. 5 at the Benton Convention Center.

The Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award and Truliant Small Business Award were presented during the event. The former went to Walter McDowell, who was recruited by the Chamber in 2008 to lead a community collaborative initiative to improve the high school graduation rate.

He used his business acumen and strong personal connections to do everything possible to close the achievement gap between minority and majority students, while ensuring that each student graduates from high school. He also chaired the Community Education

Collaborative for nearly five years. In that role, he voluntarily took on the task of raising funds to support the public school programs that are designed to keep potential drop-outs in school. As chair emeritus of the Collaborative, he continues to raise funds needed for key programs. Thus far, he has raised \$2.5 million.

The Truliant Small Business Award was presented to Tar Heel Basement Systems, which specializes in basement waterproofing, crawl-space waterproofing and repair, radon mitigation and foundation repair. After 10 years in business, Tar Heel Basement Systems has maintained an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

More than 600 business leaders attended the meeting, where the Chamber's key accomplishments for the year were among the topics addressed.



McDowell